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GEOGRAPHICAL REVIEWS

SCIENCE AND POLITICS

VICTOR BRANFORD AND PATRICK GEDDES. **The Coming Polity: A Study in Reconstruction.** xvii and 264 pp.; maps, ills. (The Making of the Future.) Williams & Norgate, London, 1917. 8 x 5 inches.

On the surface this is a plea for the application of the method of science in political thinking. As such it is noteworthy. It merits approval also for its appeal that the work of LePlay should receive wider recognition at the hands of English-speaking students of geography.

As projected, the book is introductory to a series "scientific in method and prospective in outlook." One is curious to know, however, whether science is supposed to intrude itself in the present volume. The procedure actually followed seems to be, in the words of the authors, a search for clues to causes carried out by "wandering to and fro between metropolitan capitals and their provincial cities, with the formulae of Comte and LePlay in mind, and not forgetting those of Darwin" (p. 151). In the same spirit Comte is commended as "a kind of naturalist who went about peering into societies past and present, discovering beneath all disguises and mutations his four perennial types" (p. 23).

The authors seem to move in a dream world under the guidance of a science and a history of their own invention. "May not the city be the long-sought missing link between animal and human evolution?" (p. 153). "Without continuous revitalizing [by the periodic fair], the spiritual organs of a city wither and formalize, or ferment to active degeneracy . . . To this city of evils there comes from time to time the Good Shepherd to seek and to save that which was lost. And from it flees Christian, the Pilgrim, in search of the Celestial City of his dreams" (p. 143). To these regionalists, the shepherd on the hillside is the veritable savior of society: "it is only in the pastoral life that self-sacrifice develops directly from the occupational disposition, in highest sanctity of moral elevation" (p. 124). They have similarly amazing labels for all classes: "the hunter is the man of imagination" (p. 122); "it is the peasant who is *par excellence* the builder" (p. 131); the philosopher is kin "with the dreamy and dreary loafer, with the restless and careless tramp, rustic or urban, as the case may be" (p. 117).

This is not science. The book might be described as the result of an effort on the part of belated mystics to create a "regionalistic" religion out of the incompatible teachings of Auguste Comte and Frédéric LePlay.

FREDERICK J. TEGGART

THE ECONOMIC HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA

T. A. COGHLAN. **Labour and Industry in Australia from the First Settlement in 1788 to the Establishment of the Commonwealth in 1901.** Vol. 1, viii and 587 pp.; Vol. 2, vi and pp. 589-1185; Vol. 3, v and pp. 1187-1789; Vol. 4, v and pp. 1791-2449; index. Oxford University Press, London, New York, etc., 1918. \$33.00. 9 x 6 inches.

This is a work of very considerable volume and value but one difficult to classify. The author says that while it is "a history of Labour it is not a history of Australia." However, his definition of "labor" is so liberal that these four volumes really contain a topical record of Australian industrial society from 1788 to 1901. American readers would be more interested in the events of the past twenty years—particularly in the field to which Mr. Coghlan especially devotes himself—than those of all the one hundred and thirteen years preceding. Yet Australia's recent legislative experiments, which are mainly what make that country interesting to outsiders, cannot be understood without knowing this earlier period.

Additional value is given the book by the fact that it is the logical fruit of the author's life work. It might be subtitled "The Professional Memoirs of a Statistician," allowing the latter term very comprehensive implications. The Australian states and New Zealand have had superior statistical offices for many years—immeasurably better